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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-01

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 COME-00 EB-04 LAB-01 SIL-01 SAM-01 ARA-06

IO-04 DRC-01 /072 W
---------- 021857
P R 170959Z OCT 74
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8848
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB PINT PO XZ US
SUBJ: PALME TO LEAD SCANDINAVIAN SOC DEM DELEGATION TO LISBON;
NORWAY TO HELP PORTUGUESE UNIONS

REF: (A) OSLO 4654 (B) STOCKHOLM 4590

SUMMARY: ASPENGREN TOLD AMBASSADOR THAT SWEDEN'S PALME AND
NILSSON PLUS NORWAY'S FRYDENLUND AND SOMEONE FROM LO
WILL VISIT LISBON NEXT WEEK TO DRAMATIZE SCANDINA-
VIAN SUPPORT FOR PORTUGUESE DEMOCRACY AND SOARES'
SOCIALISTS. HE ALSO EXPLAINED HOW NORWAY'S LO PLANNED
TO STEP UP HELP TO PORTUGUESE UNIONS, PARTICULARLY
BY TRAINING PORTUGUESE UNIONISTS IN NORWAY. END SUMMARY.

1. AT MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR AND LABATT OCTOBER 15 (REF A),
NORWEGIAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION (LO) PRESIDENT TOR
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ASPENGREN, VICE PRESIDENT ODD HOJDAHL AND INTERNATIONAL

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SECRETARY KAARE SANDEGREN SAID SWEDISH PRIME MINISTER
OLOF PALME AND LO PRESIDENT GUNNAR NILSSON PLUS
NORWEGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER KNUT FRYDENLUND AND SOMEONE
FROM NORWAY'S LO WOULD VISIT LISBON OCTOBER 25-27.
(SANDEGREN LATER SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY GO SINCE
ASPENGREN CAN'T--HOJDAHL CAN'T EITHER BECAUSE HE'LL
BE IN USSR OBSERVING WORK ENVIRONMENT IN STEEL PLANTS.
SANDEGREN DIDN'T KNOW YET IF DANES WOULD PARTICIPATE.)

2. NORWAY'S LABOR MOVEMENT (PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND LO)
ARE DEEPLY WORRIED ABOUT POSSIBILITY THAT PORTUGAL'S
DEMOCRATIC EXPERIMENT MAY FAIL,SAID ASPENGREN,
PARTICULARLY THAT PORTUGAL MAY RETURN TOWARD PAST IN
CONSERVATIVE OR "FASCIST"DIRECTION. PURPOSE OF
VISIT WILL BE TO GIVE DRAMATIC, TANGIBLE EVIDENCE OF
SCANDINAVIAN CONCERN, SUPPORT MARIO SOARES AND SOCIALIST
PARTY AND, HOPEFULLY, INFLUENCE PORTUGUESE TO SUPPORT THEM,
AND SET STAGE FOR STEPPED UP SCANDINAVIAN EFFORTS TO HELP
BUILD A UNIFIED, DEMOCRATIC TRADE UNION MOVEMENT
THERE. IN ADDITION TO PROVIDING MONEY, NORWAY'S LO PLANS TO
BEGIN TRAINING PORTUGUESE TRADE UNIONISTS. NORWEGIAN
SEAMAN'S UNION WILL BEGIN TRAINING PORTUGUESE SAILORS,
WHILE LO IS CONSULTING WITH MEMBER UNIONS TO SET
UP COURSES FOR OFFICERS FROM OTHER PORTUGUESE UNIONS
AT LO'S WELL-EQUIPPED RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL AT SORMARKA,
JUST OUTSIDE OSLO.

3. ASPENGREN SAID NORWAY HAD SINGLEHANDEDLY
STOPPED OTHER PARTICIPANTS IN THE RECENT TWO-DAY
TRADE UNION WORKSHOP CONFERENCE ON CHILE (HELD BEHIND
CLOSED DOORS) FROM INCLUDING UNPLEASANT REFERENCE TO THE
US IN ITS PUBLIC COMMUNIQUE, HE ADDED NORWAY'S LO WAS
ABLE TO INSIST ON THIS BECAUSE NORWAY WAS HOST.
ASPENGREN CONTINUED THAT OFTEN-EXPRESSED ASSUMPTIONS
THAT US WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENTS
SUCH AS CHILE AND GREEK COUPS WERE UNFORTUNATE FOR
FRIENDS OF US, AS WELL AS FOR US ITSELF, AND
EXPRESSED HIS DESIRE TO TURN THIS AROUND AND GIVE
POSITIVE TWIST TO US IMAGE BY INVOLVING US
IN EFFORT TO SAVE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL. IN THIS
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CONNECTION HE EXPRESSED PARTICULAR INTEREST
IN AFL-CIO INVOLVEMENT IN EFFORT TO STRENGTHEN POR-
TUGAL'S LABOR MOVEMENT. AMBASSADOR SAID HE KNEW
AFL-CIO WAS INTERESTED IN STRENGTHENING FREE
LABOR UNIONS IN PORTUGAL AND AGREED THIS
MIGHT BE USEFUL SUBJECT TO DISCUSS IN CONTACTS
WITH AFL-CIO. AMBASSADOR CALLED ATTENTION TO HIGH
LEVEL OF AFL-CIO ACTIVITY IN LATIN AMERICA THROUGH

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AIFLD, INCLUDING HOUSING PROJECTS, SCHOOLS, ETC., AND
TO AIFLD'S LONG EXPERIENCE IN TRAINING UNION OFFICIALS
AT FRONT ROYAL SCHOOL AS LO NOW PROPOSES TO DO AT
SORMARKA.
BYRNE

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